

MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF SANITARY OFFICER and BUILDING SURVEYOR

for the year

1948

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Margaret C. Fell.

Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt.

Chief Sanitary Officer and  
Building Surveyor.



RURAL DISTRICT OF MARTLEY

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1948.

Public Health Department,

36, The Tything,

Worcester.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Martley Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report upon the health of your district for the year 1948. The report is prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health circular 3/49 and is divided into the following sections:-

- Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.
- Section B. General Provision of Health Services for the area.
- Section C. Sanitary Circumstances of the area.
- Section D. Housing.
- Section E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- Section F. Prevalence of and control over Infectious Disease.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) . . . . .	52,838
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1948.. . . .	11,440
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books 31st December, 1948.. . . .	3,355
Rateable Value (end of March 1948) . . . . .	£38,793
Sum represented by a penny rate (end of March 1948)	£161

The rural district of Martley, comprising 52,838 acres, is predominantly agricultural in character and lies to the West of the city of Worcester. The River Teme running from West to East divides the district into two parts.

Of the 27 parishes in the area, only North Hallow and St. John in Bedwardine have a population of more than 1,000.

The chief industry is agriculture and the district is one of the most important fruit and hop growing areas in the country. Each year the hop picking season attracts large numbers of people to the district from the Black Country.

The health of your district continues to be good and vital statistics for the year are given in the following tables.

It is pleasing to note that the Infantile Mortality Rate for the district compares favourably with that for the whole of England and Wales.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

Males. Females. Total.

##### Live Births.

Legitimate	103	86	189
Illegitimate	8	8	16

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	17.91
Birth Rate for England and Wales	17.90

Males. Females. Total.

##### Still Births.

Legitimate	1	5	6
Illegitimate	-	1	1

Rate per 1,000 estimated population	0.61
Rate per 1,000 England and Wales	0.42

Males. Females. Total.

##### Deaths.

From all causes	59	61	120
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Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	10.49
Death rate for England and Wales	10.80

##### Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil

##### Deaths of Infants under age of one year.

Males. Females. Total.

Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	1	1	2



### Infantile Mortality Rate.

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	19.51
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				10.58
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live				
			births	125.00
Infantile Mortality Rate England and Wales	...	...		34.00

### Causes of Death.

There were 120 deaths during the year classified as under by the Registrar General:-

	Male.	Female.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-
Cerebrospinal fever	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-
Syphilitic diseases	-	-
Influenza	-	-
Measles	-	-
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	-	-
Cancer (all forms)	12	13
Diabetes	1	1
Intracranial vascular lesions	6	9
Heart Diseases	15	15
Other diseases of circulatory systems	4	3
Bronchitis	2	-
Pneumonia	2	1
Other respiratory diseases	-	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	-
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	-
Appendicitis	-	-
Other digestive diseases	1	3
Nephritis	5	1
Puerperal sepsis	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	-
Premature births	-	-
Congenital malformations, birth injury and infantile diseases	3	-
Suicide	1	1
Road traffic accidents	1	-
Other violent causes	-	1
All other causes	4	8
	—	—
	59	61
	—	—

The average age at death calculated over the year from the Registrar's returns is 67.15 years. This is a remarkably high figure.

## Section B.

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

#### 1. Staff.

Margaret C. Fell, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,  
Chief Sanitary Officer and Building Surveyor.

W. F. Acres, M.S.I.A., A.R. San. I.,  
Additional Sanitary Officer.

Miss B. E. Stone,  
Shorthand Typist and Clerk.

H. G. Dew,  
Assistant Rodent Officer.

#### 2. Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided at the County Council's laboratory in Worcester.

#### 3. Clinics.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held once each month in Hallow, Broadheath and Clifton-on-Teme and in the Great Witley - Shrawley district. The County Council's ante-natal clinic and Infant Welfare Centre is held weekly at the Shirehall, Worcester. Mothers and infants from the Martley Rural District attend this clinic.

#### 4. Hospitals.

The area is served by the Worcester Royal Infirmary and the Kidderminster Infirmary for cases of accident and general illness.

Cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to the Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.

Maternity cases can be admitted to Maternity Homes at Stourport, Stourbridge and Bromsgrove.

#### 5. Nursing in the Home.

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act 1946, facilities for nursing in the home are provided by the County Council. Seven District Nurse-Midwives are working in the District and in most cases they carry out the duties of Health Visitor for their area.

#### 6. Ambulance Facilities.

These are provided by the County Council.

## Section C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### 1. Water Supply.

Only three parishes in the district obtain any of their water supply from public mains.

Part of the parish of North Hallow is supplied with water from Worcester County Borough. The source of this supply is the River Severn and proved satisfactory both in quality and quantity throughout the year.

Part of the parish of Clifton-on-Teme has a mains water supply from a spring situated to the West of the Village. This supply proved sufficient in quantity throughout the year. The quality of the water, shown by bacteriological examination and chemical analysis was not completely satisfactory at one period during the year.

Four houses in the parish of Leigh obtain a water supply from Malvern Urban District Council's mains.

The water supply to the remainder of the district, with the exception of a few houses in Broadwas and Abberley which have private piped supplies, comes from shallow wells and in many cases is unsatisfactory in quality and quantity. Of 82 samples taken for analysis from shallow wells during the year, 53 were found to be unsatisfactory.

An adequate water supply for the district must be regarded as an urgent need and it is hoped that it will be possible for this to be provided in the near future.

#### 2. Sewerage.

No changes were made, nor new works of sewerage completed during the year.


Work on the sewerage scheme for the Parish of Rushwick was in progress during the year.

Serious nuisance arising from lack of adequate means of sewage disposal has been experienced in the area of Broadheath.

It is hoped that the proposed sewerage schemes for this and other parishes will be completed as soon as possible.

The following table shows the water supply and methods of sewage disposal in the district.



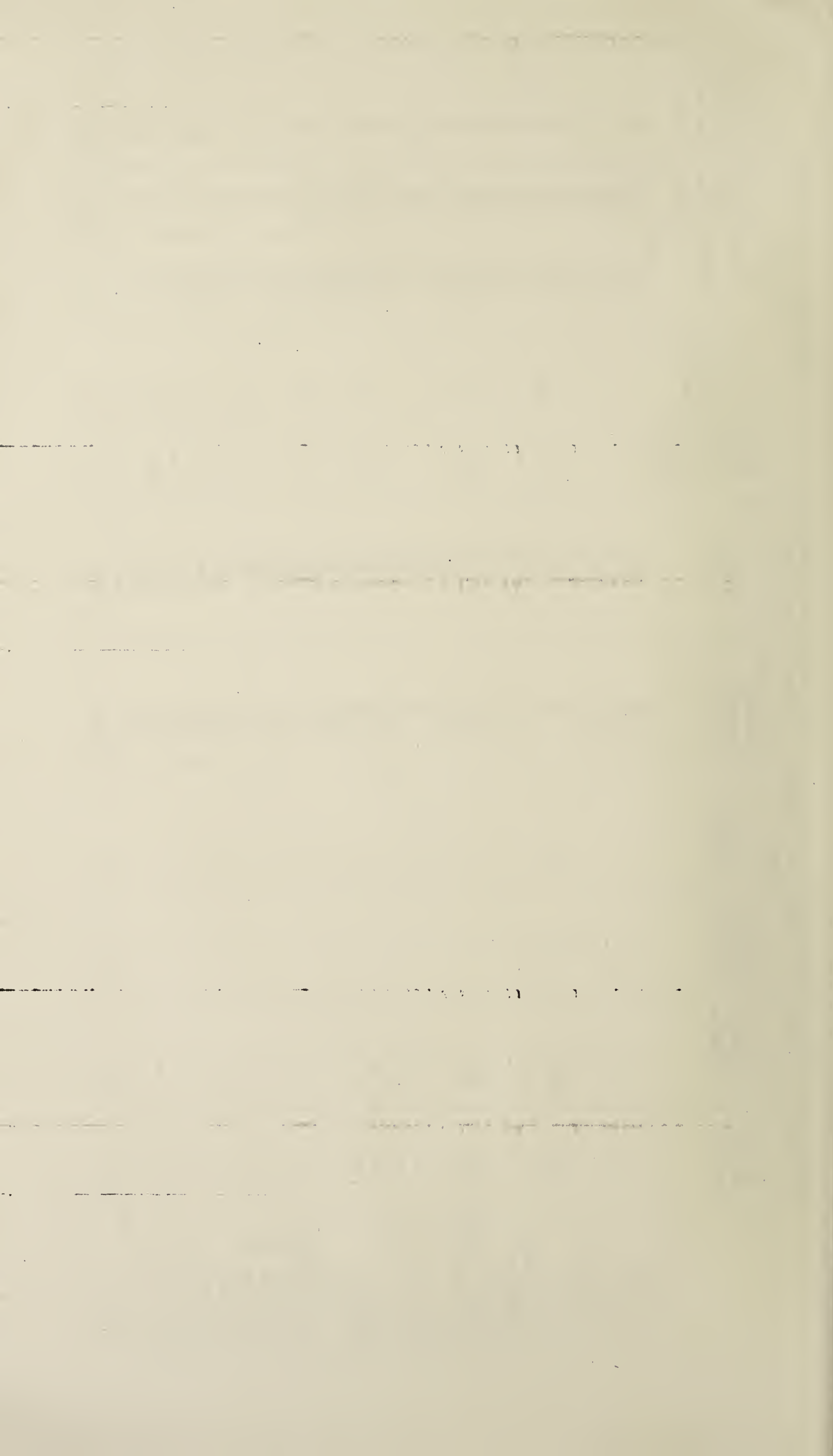


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Parish.	From Public Mains			From private supplies e.g.wells, springs.			Sewerage and Sewage Disposal				
	Direct to houses		By means of Stand- Pipe	No.of dwell: houses.	Popu- lation.	Popu- lation	No.of dwell: connec- ted to public sewer	Popul- ation served	No. of houses with		
	No.of dwell: houses.	Popul- ation.	Pails						Cess pits etc.	Private install- ations.	
Abberley	-	-	-	-	150	483	-	-	115	33	2
Alfrick	-	-	-	-	135	427	-	-	115	20	-
Astley	-	-	-	-	369	992	-	-	302	52	15
Brensford	-	-	-	-	86	273	-	-	70	16	-
Breadwas	-	-	-	-	84	255	-	-	65	18	-
Clifton	76	266	20	66	46	113	74	260	62	5	1
Cotheridge	-	-	-	-	57	192	-	-	41	16	1
Doddenham	-	-	-	-	79	268	-	-	61	16	-
Grimley	-	-	-	-	183	614	-	-	134	48	1
Hallow, North	90	360	-	-	364	1223	169	595	249	36	-
Hillhampton	-	-	-	-	33	108	-	-	25	7	-
Holt	-	-	-	-	104	325	-	-	75	16	-
Kenswick	-	-	-	-	7	26	-	-	5	2	13
Knightwick	-	-	-	-	43	140	-	-	39	4	-
Leigh	4	14	-	-	277	972	24	85	224	31	-
Lulsley	-	-	-	-	46	146	-	-	41	5	-
Martley	-	-	-	-	253	873	-	-	226	27	-
St. Johns	-	-	-	-	239	895	5	18	123	110	-
Lower Sapey	-	-	-	-	53	135	-	-	44	8	1
Shelsley B.	-	-	-	-	67	217	-	-	60	7	-
Shelsley K.	-	-	-	-	80	259	-	-	72	7	-
Shelsley W.	-	-	-	-	22	56	-	-	20	2	-
Shrawley	-	-	-	-	151	506	-	-	139	11	1
Suckley	-	-	-	-	151	529	-	-	126	9	16
Wichenford	-	-	-	-	103	332	-	-	92	10	1
Witley Gt.	-	-	-	-	101	348	15	54	62	22	2
Witley Lt.	-	-	-	-	50	157	-	-	37	5	8
Totals	170	540	20	66	3333	10864	287	1012	2624	543	69



## Section D.

### HOUSING.

During 1948 a total of 89 houses were built in the district, 51 by the Local Authority and 38 by other persons.

In my last annual report I stressed the great need for improving the housing conditions in the district, and again I wish to draw the attention of the Council to the urgent problem of re-housing families who are at present living in overcrowded or insanitary conditions.

Many houses in the area are considered to be suitable only for demolition and it is hoped that as the building of new houses proceeds it will be possible to deal with these unfit houses.

The following is a summary of the housing work carried out:-

#### Number of new houses erected during the year.

(a)	By Local Authority	51
(b)	By other persons	38

#### Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

(a)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts	43
(b)	Number of inspections made	121
(c)	Number of houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations 1925 and 1932	Nil
(d)	Number of houses found to be unfit for habitation	13
(e)	Number of houses found to be not fit in all respects for human habitation	30

#### Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notice.

(a)	Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the L. A. or their Officers	23
(b)	Number of houses where urgent repairs carried out by informal action	42

#### Action under Statutory Powers.

(a)	Under the Housing Act, 1936	1
(b)	Under the Public Health Acts	2

#### Overcrowding.

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	108
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	120
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	612
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	7



(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	20
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	117
(iii)	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil

#### Section E.

##### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

This work was carried out as usual during the year by the Sanitary Officers and full details are given in Mr. Pratt's report.

Particular attention was given during the year to the manufacturers and retailers of ice-cream and their methods of production and premises were kept under strict supervision.

#### Section F.

##### Prevalence of and control over Infectious Disease.

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act 1946 children can be immunised against diphtheria, free of cost, by their own doctor or at one of the County Council's clinics.

The following table shows the number of children who were immunised during the year:-

Number of children who completed a course of primary immunisation in the Authority's area during 1948.			Number of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection during the year.
Age at final injection.		Total	Under 14 years.
Under 5	5-14		
225	26	251	72

The only case of diphtheria which occurred in the district during 1948 was among the hop pickers visiting the area, a boy of seven years who was removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment.

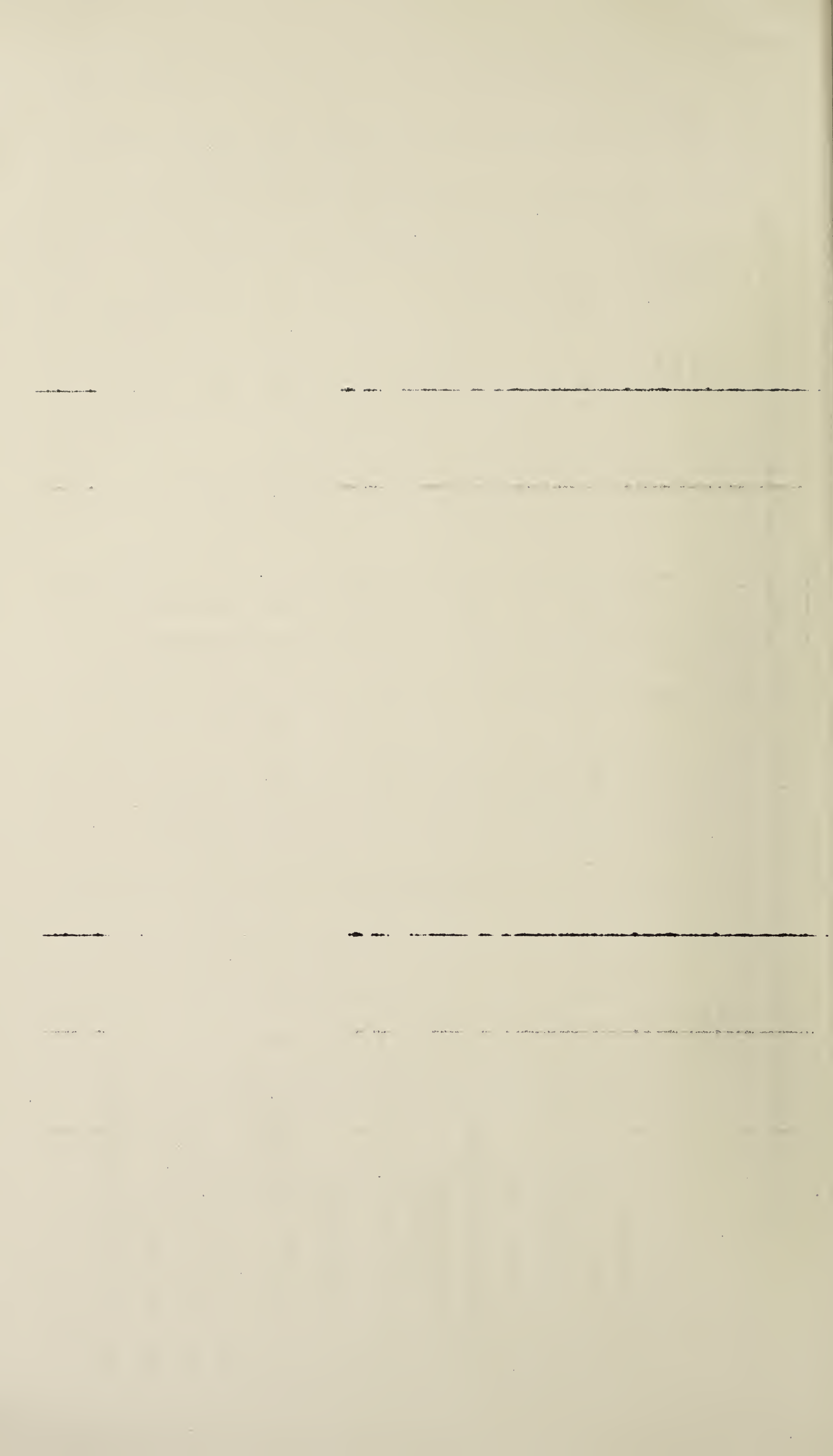
The following tables show the incidence of Notifiable disease in the district during the year:-



## Section F. Infectious Disease.

The incidence of cases of Notifiable Disease during 1948 is shown in the following table.

[illegible]



# T U B E R C U L O S I S.

## New Cases and Mortality during 1948.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths *			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0			1					
1		1		1				
5			1					
15	1		2	1	2	1		
25					1	2		1
45		1				2		
55								
65 and upwards								
TOTALS	1	2	4	2	3	5		1

\* Compiled from the Tuberculosis Register  
and Local Registrar's Death Returns.

## Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of the year.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1947	29	26	14	16
1948	30	24	18	17

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MARGARET C. FELL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH.





MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY OFFICER AND BUILDING SURVEYOR.

Public Health Department,

36, The Tything,

Worcester.

June 1949.

To the Rural District Council of Martley.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my second annual report on the work of my Department in the Sanitary Administration of the Rural District during the year ending 31st December 1948.

Details of work carried out will be found in the appended report but I have not included detailed figures as to the number of visits paid as these are, to me, unimportant and a waste of space. The true indication of the work accomplished in safe-guarding the public health of the area is shown by the absence of outbreaks of disease and food poisoning and in the vital statistics.

I have no feeling of self-satisfaction at the progress shown during the year as many aspects of public health which I intended should be investigated and improved could not be dealt with and no exciting improvements were made. The difficulties encountered in the Public Health Department of a relatively poor Rural District must be experienced to be believed and the greatest is that of the many purely clerical duties which have to be carried out by trained technical officers; this reduces the time which could be spent on outdoor work of a constructive nature. In order to prevent arrears of work accumulating, which in many cases cause a feeling of frustration to the members of the public concerned, a considerable amount of time is taken up in administration leaving little time for concentrated thinking and planning. Any work of this nature has to be done outside normal working hours and I am sure it is not appreciated how much work is done in this manner. These facts are not reported for any ulterior motive or in a spirit of criticism but to stress the difficulties which have to be overcome before any real progress can be made.

The housing position in the District is still very unsatisfactory and the prospect of making any substantial improvement seems remote. Only those who have to visit all types of houses and people, and who have been trained to observe the conditions under which they live, can really appreciate the misery being caused through ill-health, overcrowding, inadequate amenities and, in some cases, having to live with "in-laws". Bearing in mind the urgent need to attract workers to agriculture, I am still of the opinion however that priority in re-housing should be given to the following in the order named:-

- (1) Tuberculosis cases
- (2) Occupants of houses which are structurally dangerous
- (3) Overcrowded families.

and that the Public Health Committee should be allowed to allot an agreed percentage of all new houses erected by the Council. One method of ensuring that the most needy cases were given priority would be by interviewing all applicants and making known their particular needs and position to the Committee allocating the houses; this duty could be carried out by a "rehousing officer" who would then have all the facts for presentation when required.

There would seem to be some division of responsibility between the Public Health and Housing Departments especially on the question of sewerage schemes and water supplies, and I suggest that some definite arrangement could be arrived at which would reduce or even eliminate overlapping in these fields.

The amount of expenditure which this Department is allowed to incur and which is allocated in the Annual Estimates, makes it practically impossible to carry out in a proper manner those duties which are laid down by statute and thus provide the amenities which are conducive to better health. The practice of cutting down the estimates submitted in order to keep the rates to be levied at a certain level is one which causes a feeling of uncertainty and does not allow of planned progress and I am of the opinion that it will be necessary to budget for increased expenditure during the next three years.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance given to me by the whole of the Council's staff and of the consideration and forbearance of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee in particular and of the Council in general.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. L. PRATT.

Chief Sanitary Officer and Building  
Surveyor.



I. TOWN PLANNING AND BUILDING  
BYELAWS.

With the coming into operation of the new Town and Country Planning Act in July, the Worcestershire County Council became the Planning Authority for the County. The County Council requested this Authority to act as their Agents and, after joint meetings with other districts and much discussion in Council, this was agreed to. The Council did not altogether approve of the delegation agreement but decided to accept it for a limited trial period. Under this agreement certain types of buildings of a minor character are dealt with by the Council without reference to the County Planning Officer but, in all other cases, the County Council, through their Officers, dictate the policy, the County Planning Officer examining all plans before they are considered by the Planning Committee of this Council. All the correspondence, administration and the inspection is done from this Department, without the Council having any real powers under the Act.

Up to the end of the year no difference of opinion had arisen between the County Planning Officer and your Planning Committee necessitating the reference of any applications for development to the County Planning Committee for a final decision.

On the 31st March all matters of Town and Country Planning, which had been dealt with by the Public Health Committee, were transferred to the new Planning and Licensing Committee and this has proved of advantage to applicants by reducing the time taken to determine applications. It has also reduced the amount of work and the length of Meetings of the Public Health Committee but has the disadvantage that this Committee do not see, and are not able to criticise, drainage arrangements and water supplies for new premises.

The amount of work under this heading has increased considerably during the year owing to the number of applications which have been received under the Planning Act for works of a minor nature, e.g., erection of small sheds, new access to highway etc. These have to be visited, reported upon, and decisions communicated to the applicants, which has added to the clerical work of the department.

Applications to Develop.

	Plans for new construction.	Change of use of land and buildings.
Brought Forward from 1947	4	-
Received during 1948	135	12
Total applications	139	12

	Plans for new construction.	Change of use of land and buildings.
Applications approved	75	8
Applications approved in principle	13	-
Temporary Buildings	11	-
Applications postponed	3	3
Applications referred back	5	-
Applications refused	21	1
Applications outstanding	5	3

#### Building Byelaws.

Brought Forward from 1947	2	
Received during 1948	73	
		<u>75</u>
Applications approved	67	
Applications refused	5	
Outstanding	3	
		<u>75</u>

## II. HOUSING.

### A. Building Licensing.

The functions delegated to Local Authorities by the Ministry of Health continued on the same lines as the previous year until the 1st July when the limit below which work could be carried out without a Licence was raised to £100. On the same date the Council were given back their powers to issue Licences for private houses in the ratio of 4 to 1 of their total quota. Generally speaking work on licensing was reduced considerably but the inspections of work that was licensed continued to be carried out as usual.

The Council's allocation of new houses, issued by the Ministry of Health on the 30th November, was 71 up to the end of 1949, out of which number eleven private houses could be erected. The following table gives details of Licences issued:-

	Number of Licences.	Amount. £.
New houses	8	11,590
Conversions and additional accommodation	19	6,670
		<u>18,260</u>
Carried Forward	27	



	Number of Licences.	Amount. £.
Brought Forward	27	18,260
House repairs (under £100)	140	6,877
House repairs (over £100)	50	12,078
Other repairs	62	5,574
Maintenance Licences	3	1,100
	<hr/> 282	<hr/> 43,889

The number of licences refused  
were:-

New houses	3	-
Additional accommodation	1	1,650
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 1,650

### Housing.

The Rural Housing Survey having been completed last year, it was decided to concentrate on keeping those houses which were in poor condition in a fit state for continued occupation by attempting to have the more urgent defects remedied informally. The relieving of over-crowding and the re-housing of occupants living in dangerous structures was also treated as a matter of urgency. This policy was adopted because of the difficulty of getting repairs carried out owing to their high cost and to the general shortage of labour in the district; only small jobbing builders are resident in the area and they are mainly concerned with purely agricultural work. The engagement of builders from adjoining towns increases the cost of any work considerably owing to the distances to be travelled and the time taken in travelling and this reflects more in repair work than in the construction of new buildings.

The general standard of the older type of house is deteriorating more rapidly than is generally thought and the Council are going to be faced with a serious re-housing problem unless some inducement can be given to owners to carry out extensive repairs. The only inducement which can be suggested would be by grants towards the cost of such repairs, coupled with some increase in the rents to bring them into line with the wages now being earned by the occupants of the houses and to the extra cost of such repairs.

Some difficulty has been found in persuading the Housing Committee to re-house over-crowded persons and those living in dangerous structures, owing to the recommendation, and the financial inducement, to house agricultural workers. To overcome this difficulty a list of persons in urgent need of a house for the above mentioned reasons was prepared by this Department and was ordered by the Public Health Committee to be forwarded to the Housing Committee for consideration when letting houses.

Owing to the housing shortage it has been found necessary to issue licences on a temporary basis for the use of sub-standard accommodation of various kinds, but it has also been found necessary to close four unsuitable premises which were being occupied and which were totally unfit for the purpose. By various means twenty cases of over-crowding were relieved during the year and a survey made of all possible cases of over-crowding which were shown in the Rural Housing Survey Report. I must again draw the attention of the Council to the condition of houses which were condemned before the War and which are now occupied under temporary licence. The condition of these houses deteriorates annually and the majority are now in such a condition as to be very dangerous to health and even to personal safety. In order to avoid any further danger to the occupiers the Council should now take action to get these premises closed and the occupiers re-housed.

Details of the action taken and the inspections made under the various Housing Acts have been included in the report of the Medical Officer.

### III. DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

#### A. House Drainage.

Through the absence of public sewers in the majority of Parishes and in order to prevent the pollution of streams etc. many of which are adjacent to farms now producing T.T. milk, strict supervision has had to be exercised on house drainage disposal. Wherever possible septic tanks and/or filters are required and, although this system is far from perfect owing to the lack of maintenance by the tenants, it is the best that can be devised for single houses or very small groups. Difficulty has been experienced in many cases in disposing of the effluent from these systems, especially in areas where the subsoil is of Keuper marl, as no land irrigation methods are effective.

Action was taken during the year to improve the sanitary accommodation and drainage disposal arrangements to five licensed premises and, although the Ministry of Works were far from helpful the work was carried out eventually. It would appear that the Ministry of Works do not appreciate that rural dwellers are entitled to the same hygienic conditions as town dwellers and these become more essential at weekends and during the hop picking season when these premises cater for a considerable number of people.

The Council had to empty septic tanks and cesspools at Rushwick again and more houses in this area were in difficulties with their drainage than in previous years. The total number of tanks emptied was 78, serving 213 houses.



## Sanitary conveniences.

The following conversions have been carried out:-

Privy middens to pail closets	-	5
Pail closets to W. C's.	-	11
Additional and new W. C's	-	9

## Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

### Rushwick.

During the year excellent progress was made with the installation of the sewage disposal scheme in this Parish and the greater part of the sewers etc. were laid. Although the Contractor had difficulty in obtaining sufficient labour, the good weather during the winter months enabled him to carry on the work without interruption and the standard of the work carried out was very good.

Whilst the sewers were being laid inspections of all houses on the line of such sewers was carried out so that the necessary junctions could be left in the sewer. This work had to be carried out of necessity in the evenings and the opportunity was taken of informing owners of the benefits which they could derive from connecting to the sewers and the way in which this could be carried out. In my opinion the Council should have made the connections to the sewers as far as the boundary fences of the properties concerned as the cost of carrying out this work in many cases will be very high; the owners will be forced to make such connections as the present disposal systems are inadequate through no fault of their own. It would be as well to bear this point in mind when any further schemes of sewerage are being considered.

### North Hallow.

It would now appear that it will be impracticable to connect the proposed sewerage disposal scheme for the parish of Broadheath to the disposal works at North Hallow owing to the long length of unproductive main sewer which would result and so increase the already high cost of the scheme. As previously stated, the Hallow Disposal works are in need of repair and enlargement but this work has been deferred in the hope that it could be included in the contract for the Broadheath scheme. The effluent now being produced from these works is polluting the Laugherne Brook and it is necessary to carry out the enlargement of these works at once; no replacements etc., have been made since the works were installed in 1916 and a new sludge pump, filter arms, and dosing apparatus are long overdue.

A scheme has been prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer for an extension of the sewer to Hallow Mount in order to abate nuisances being caused by over-flowing septic tanks and pollution of water courses. This scheme, however, proved more costly than the figure allowed by the Ministry of Health and on the Council's instructions a preliminary survey is being made for an alternative scheme.

### Great Witley.

In order to take sewage from premises where a nuisance is now being caused and for which there is no other solution, the Council instructed me to prepare a scheme for the extension of an existing sewer. This scheme, which comprises the laying of some 283 yards of 6" sewer with the necessary manholes etc., has now been completed and is out to Tender.

The disposal works to this scheme are somewhat primitive and were designed originally to take the effluent from septic tanks only; since its installation many years ago crude sewage has been allowed to enter the system and the accumulative effect has necessitated a complete overhaul and cleaning of the plant. As it is proposed to build Council Houses on the line of this sewer and it is likely that other private development may be connected to it, it will be necessary to re-organise the disposal works by including settlement tanks, rotary filters etc; the site is capable of development and, if this work is carried out, it will obviate the use of a separate disposal works to the Council Housing Site.

### Broadheath.

It is again necessary to draw the attention of the Council to the need for a sewerage scheme in this area to get rid of the serious nuisance which still exists and, in fact, is growing worse. In addition the development of suitable building sites is being curtailed as, owing to the nature of the sub-soil, septic tanks can not be installed. It appears economically impossible to take sewage from this area to the Hallow Works and it will be necessary therefore to design new works to which can be connected the existing houses and the proposed Council Housing site which will soon be started. This is a very urgent matter and should receive the immediate attention of the Council.

### Clifton-on-Teme.

The land on which sewage from the village is irrigated is now becoming saturated and the need for a proper disposal plant is becoming pressing. An adjoining small water course is becoming polluted and the Council will be faced with serious complaints unless some action can be taken in the near future. This matter has been mentioned in previous reports and it is hoped that the Council can see their way to give this provision priority in the near future.

### Martley.

Complaints regarding the quality of well water in the Jury La area led to a survey being made and of all wells being sampled for analysis. The result of such analyses was that the majority of the wells are polluted and this, in my opinion, has been caused through the constant burying of night soil and disposal of drainage on land adjoining the wells where the water table is very high. The possibility of the conversion of buildings into a school kitchen and three flats by the County Council, and the present use of some buildings belonging to this Council as living accommodation and Depots, makes it essential that a sewer should be provided. It is thought that it would be possible to enlarge the sewage disposal works on an adjoining Council Housing Estate and to connect all these premises to such works.



#### IV. WATER DISPOSAL.

##### Private Supplies.

As mentioned in the report of the Medical Officer, 82 samples of water from private sources were examined by the Analyst who reported that 53 were unfit for drinking purposes. Where possible these unfit wells were treated in an attempt at improvement which, in some cases, was obtained. In several cases deep seated sources of pollution were found which were incapable of treatment and in such cases water has to be boiled if no alternative supply is available. From previous records it would appear that more well water is becoming unsuitable for drinking and in my opinion this is due to the continued use of the surrounding land for drainage and night soil disposal. This question gives me some concern especially as houses are being sold to town dwellers who are not immunised against this type of water.

As mentioned above, the Jury Lane area of Martley is particularly bad in this respect and I recommend to the Council that an extension of the water supply from the Council Housing Estate adjoining should be made as soon as possible.

Samples from boreholes sunk to supply new Council Houses are taken as a matter of routine and the results submitted to the Principal Regional Housing Officer of the Ministry of Health, who requires this information before approving the site. In several cases water of an excessive hardness has been reported, one case in particular showing 170 degrees hardness which, after 7 days pumping was reduced to 84 degrees. This water was passed by the Ministry of Health as fit for drinking, but your Medical Officer and myself do not agree with this decision. In addition the question of the encrustation of domestic boilers and water pipes must be considered in assessing maintenance charges and the installation of water softeners or calorifiers would appear to be an expensive remedy.

A routine sample of the water supplying Council Houses at Suckley was examined and showed an excessive amount of lead. Steps were taken to test the water from the storage tanks, mains etc. separately but no definite evidence as to the source of the lead was forthcoming. This lead content slowly decreased and has now practically disappeared. In all, 22 samples were taken and the lead content fell from 0.16 parts per 100,000 to a very slight trace.

##### Public Supplies.

Details of the number of houses supplied from public mains has been given in the report of the report of the Medical Officer. No extensions to, or alterations to, these supplies were made during the year.

A skeleton scheme of supply to the parishes north of the River Teme was submitted by the Council's Consulting Engineer to the Ministry of Health last year, with a request for permission to sink a trial borehole. Although many details have been furnished to the Ministry at their request, no notice of an Enquiry has been received as yet. The installation of piped supplies throughout the district is an urgent necessity, especially in several parishes where lack of water is preventing the building of much needed houses; farms and existing dwelling houses in these areas are also short of water and this reflects in the milk production figures and other agricultural produce.

It is hoped that the Ministry will be able to expedite their enquiry and enable the Council to formulate concrete proposals for installing mains at least in those areas where water shortage is always apparent.

Preliminary surveys have been carried out by this Department at Doddenham and Martley in an attempt to find a quick solution of the water supply problem. In neither case does it appear that mains can be installed economically but further investigations are being made.

A. Clifton-on-Teme.

The quantity of water pumped during the year in this Parish was 2,468,650 gallons as compared with 2,608,350 gallons in 1947.

The spring forming the source of the supply proved adequate and no complaints as to shortage were received. Concern is felt the excessive pressure shown on the pump and investigation of the condition of the rising main will be made as soon as possible.

Samples of the water were taken in February, when a very good report was received, and in November, when 17 faecal coli per ml were reported. An examination of the collecting tank did not disclose any unusual features and it was assumed that the water had been slightly polluted at the source. Further examinations were proceeding at the end of the year.

B. North Hallow.

The mains and supply to a part of this Parish are controlled by the City of Worcester. A small number of premises were allowed by them to connect to the mains during the year. The maximum of 56,000 gallons per week was exceeded but no curtailment of the water supply was necessary.

V. PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE.

A. Refuse collection.

Improvements in the refuse collection scheme for the area were made during the year. After reducing accumulations of refuse made during the war years, the Parish of Grimley was included in fortnightly collection area, which now serves 6 parishes.

In the remaining parishes, incombustible refuse was collected at two monthly intervals in 17 Parishes, and at three monthly intervals in four small parishes which are difficult of access.

The scheme appears to be working reasonably well but difficulty is experienced in keeping to the published schedules when breakdown of vehicles or illness among the personnel occurs. No reserve of personnel or vehicles are available and this causes inefficiency in collection during emergency and holiday periods.



## B. Refuse Storage.

The scheme for supplying dustbins to the public at cost price plus delivery charge was continued but did not have the success of the previous year as anticipated. Only 47 dustbins were delivered during the year as against 197 in 1947. House holders were circularised without effect and the only solution appeared to be to serve notices under the Public Health Act on persons not having proper sanitary bins. The Council however considered that the clerical work involved was beyond their resources at the moment and I was directed to continue with persuasive methods.

## C. Refuse Disposal.

No additional refuse tips were started during the year and on the six tips in use controlled tipping was practised as far as was possible with the limited labour and financial resources at my disposal.

One refuse tip caught fire and the Fire Brigade attended but, owing to the lack of water mains or static water in the area, they were not able to extinguish the fire. As no dwellings were near the tip, and there was no danger to property or crops, it was decided to leave the tip to burn out.

## D. Salvage.

Salvage is collected with house refuse and additional collections are made to business and other premises where it is found to be necessary.

The amount of salvage collected was greater than in previous years but was still low despite the publicity given to the saving of various materials.

The following quantities of salvage were collected during the year:-

Waste paper, all grades	-	26 tons 14 cwts.	£176 9. 0.
Bottles, all grades	-	948 dozen	65 3.11.
Rags	-	1 ton 13 cwts	27 0. 0.
Bones	-	10 cwts	2 12. 6.
Scrap Metal, all grades	-	10 tons 16 cwts.	20 15.10.
			<hr/>
			£292 1. 3.
			<hr/>

## VI. SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Regular inspections of premises where food is prepared, stored or sold were carried out as a matter of routine and, generally speaking, the condition of these premises was satisfactory. In several cases advice had to be given on the improvement in hygiene but no legal enforcement was necessary.



### Slaughter Houses.

Meat consumed in this area is slaughtered and inspected at the Worcester Abattoir which is supervised by the Worcester City Authority. No complaints regarding the condition of meat allocated to this area were received during the year.

A request was made by the Ministry of Food to allow the slaughter of "self-supplier" pigs at three slaughter houses situated in the District. On investigation it was apparent that two of the slaughter houses were unsuitable for this purpose, and the Council permitted only one such building to be used.

### Ice-Cream.

Six applications for premises to be registered for the sale only of ice cream were received during the year and were approved in every case. There are now two premises registered for manufacture, and seven premises for the sale, of ice cream, and all were regularly inspected and several samples of ice cream taken from each of the premises. With the exception of one manufacture all the samples showed good quality and cleanliness. In the excepted case the manufacturer was advised of methods of production and told to purchase proper equipment; this caused some improvement but a warning had to be issued before this was maintained and even now the premises are not considered to be entirely satisfactory.

### Milk Production.

The Licensing and sampling of Accredited and Tuberculin Tested milk is still carried out by the County Council. The closest co-operation exists between myself and the County Sanitary Officer and cowsheds and dairies have been brought up to standard by this means. I regret to say that this co-operation does not exist with the officers of the Agricultural Executive Committee concerned.

It has been found impossible to carry out inspections of all the milk producers in the area but inspections of those known to be producing milk of a suspicious quality have been made and all complaints investigated.

During the year the following number of Licences for designated milk were issued by the County Council to producers in this District:

#### Tuberculin Tested.

Combined Producers and Bottling Licences	-	1
Producers Licences only	-	15

#### Accredited.

Combined Producers and Bottling Licences	-	1
Producers Licences only	-	10

No pasteurising plants are in operation in the District.

During the year seven new or remodelled cowsheds were built and in all cases the designs were prepared or amended by this Department.

The appointed day on which the functions of Local Authorities relating to milk production will be transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture has not yet been announced.

#### Food and Drugs Adulteration.

The responsibility for this work rests with the Worcestershire County Council.

### VII. SUPERVISION OF WORK PLACES.

#### Factories Act, 1937.

The following is a summary of the work carried out under this heading:-

	Registered.	Inspections.	Defects Found Remedied.	
Factories with power	25	28	1	1
Factories without power	5	8	1	1
Total	30	36	2	2

### VIII. MISCELLANEOUS.

#### A. Camps and Moveable Dwellings.

All camping sites and sites for moveable dwellings were inspected regularly throughout the year, especially during the Summer months. The conditions found were usually very good but informal action was required on occasions to remedy insanitary conditions and to prohibit the over-crowding of sites.

The Town and Country Planning Act 1947 has made it easier to control new sites as conditions can be imposed under that Act which could not be considered under the Public Health Act 1936; this applies especially to temporary licences for a given period which allow observations to be made on the supervision and conduct of the sites.

No new camping sites were licensed during the year but seven licences authorising use of land for single moveable dwellings were issued. The majority of these premises were used for permanent occupation until the occupier could find other accommodation. From a public health point-of-view such accommodation is not satisfactory but the housing shortage renders it necessary for people who take up fresh appointments in areas in which they are strange and can not afford to buy a house.



B. Hop Pickers.

A copy of the report submitted by the Medical Officer and myself to the Public Health Committee is attached to this report.

The procedure adopted prior to the War was renewed when a Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee visited hop pickers barracks during the picking season. These visits are welcomed by your officers who like members of the Council to see the difficulties which are encountered and the improvements which are made to these premises and it is thought that this procedure could be extended to other fields of public health work.

There was no visit to the hop fields by a representative of the Ministry of Health this year.

C. Petrol Supplies.

I have continued to be responsible for the Council's bulk supplies of petrol. The total amount used by lorries and plant during the year was 2047 gallons, and details of the use of this fuel are contained in the monthly returns to the Ministry of Fuel and Power.

D. Petroleum Act, 1928.

The total number of storage licences issued during the year was 53, the gallonage involved being 46,275.

Six new licences were issued and the siting and construction of the storage tanks was carried out under my supervision.

E. Rodent Control.

The powers delegated to the Council by the County Council under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919 were continued in accordance with the directions contained in the Infestation Order 1943.

During the year the Ministry of Agriculture superseded the Ministry of Food in the supervision of this work.

The treatment of business premises and private dwellings was continued under the original scheme whereby occupants were charged for work carried out at their premises. In April a new scheme of grant aid was introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture and a consolidated grant of 50% of the net approved expenditure on all but business premises was payable to the Council. The Council decided to make a nominal charge of 2/6d. per hour for work carried out to private dwellings and to charge at cost price any work carried out to business premises. The Council's sewers and refuse tips were attended at regular intervals and no complaints as to infestation were received regarding any of these premises.

The number of treatments carried out to the various types of premises were as follows:-

<u>Type of Premises.</u>	<u>Treatments.</u>
1. Private dwellings	101
2. Business premises	27
3. Local Authority sewers	5
4. Local Authority Refuse Tips	9
5. Various other premises	10
	-----
Total	152



In addition the Assistant Rodent Officer continued to carry out inspection work in all parts of the area to see that re-infestation did not occur and to treat any fresh infestations.

In order to comply with the conditions laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture before a grant could be given, a large amount of detailed clerical work is necessary and it is a matter of regret that it has not been possible to compile these statistics and records at the proper time. The Finance Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture do not appear to realise the number of difficulties which are experienced in this work and they would seem to be more concerned with the accountancy aspect than the destruction of rats. The Assistant Rodent Officer was engaged for his ability on the practical side of the work and not as a clerk and the clerical staff in the Public Health Department is not sufficient to keep up to date all the records that would seem to be necessary.

The record of work and the absence of any major infestations in the area bears comparison with other rural districts and this, and not the record book, in my opinion, should be the criterion.



## Accommodation for Hop-Pickers.

### Report for 1948.

The season was late in starting this year owing to the lack of sunshine and the majority of growers did not start picking until the second week of September. The weather was good throughout the season but, even so, the stay of the pickers was longer than usual, many not returning until well into October.

Pickers were housed on 46 farms and the total number in the District, according to the Food Office, was 4968 of which 952 or 19% were children under the age of 10 years. These numbers are considerably below those of 1947 which were 7,137, 30% of which were children under the age of 10 years. The reasons for this sudden decrease in numbers may be summarised as follows:-

- (1) The decrease in the number of farms housing pickers.
- (2) The opening of the Schools during September.
- (3) The increase in the number of pickers from Worcester, Evesham, etc., who are transported to the farms daily.

Hop-picking machines have been installed on two farms this year, namely Mr. Clift's, Lulsley and Capt. Hutton's, Suckley and, although further improvements would seem to be necessary, they appear to have been successful and to have gathered the hops more cheaply than by hand. I understand that several machines have been ordered for next year and a new era seems to be starting in this branch of farming; we do not deny that this is a source of satisfaction to the Officers of this Department as the work of supervising the housing etc. of these people is some of the most difficult which we encounter. The only unsatisfactory aspect of machine picking from a public health point-of-view is that many small children from the town will not get their annual holiday in the country.

The decision of the Education Authorities to reopen the schools early in September and their threat to prosecute parents who take their children away has caused a considerable reduction in the number of pickers; on one farm alone 100 pickers less than the number ordered arrived, with the consequent lengthening of the picking season. In several places parents sent their children to the local school and, on their being refused admission owing to lack of accommodation, obtained a Certificate to this effect, it remains to be seen if this will prove effective in preventing a prosecution.

The nursing arrangements followed the usual lines but many enquiries were made by growers as to the effect of the new National Health Service on these arrangements. It was not possible to obtain an official ruling in this matter but, as the growers were expected to stamp Insurance cards in certain cases, it would appear to be the responsibility of the State, through the County Council, to provide the necessary nursing and medical attention.



The following new barracks were erected during the year:-

- (1) Dual purpose type in asbestos and concrete, Hilltop Farm, Martley for Messrs. T. L. Walker & Sons.
- (2) Small dual-purpose type in corrugated iron, Court Farm, Martley for R. Pullen.
- (3) Wood and asbestos building, Courthouse Farm, Shelsley Walsh for Messrs. Kirby Bros.
- (4) Brick and asbestos permanent building, Church Farm, Shelsley Beauchamp for Mr. Lionel Moore.
- (5) Dual-purpose type in corrugated iron, Pardhouse, Shelsley Kings, for Mr. W. Finelli.
- (6) Small brick and tile permanent building, Upper Sandlin, Leigh for Mr. W. Watton.
- (7) Dual-purpose type in asbestos and concrete, Pigeon House, Leigh for Mr. G. Hodges.
- (8) Dual-purpose type in corrugated iron, Hill Farm, Leigh for Mr. C. W. Lewis.

In all cases plans were submitted and improvements suggested by us were incorporated; it must be a long time since so large a number of new barracks were erected and improved conditions provided for such a number of pickers.

The conditions generally were much better than usual as will be shown by the fact that only one letter asking for work to be carried out was sent by us; minor infringements of the Byelaws were dealt with verbally and in all cases the necessary work was carried out at once. One reason for the improved conditions was the smaller number of pickers being housed and hesitate in saying that the prosecution taken by the Council after last season has had any salutary effect but it is a fact that, during the past 7 years, the quarters have never been so clean and there have never been so few unsatisfactory features in the compliance with the Byelaws.

The health of the pickers was remarkably good and only one case of diphtheria was reported although a case of scarlet fever occurred two days after a picker returned home. Accident cases were reported by the nurses as being less than in previous years.

The major improvements which we consider should be undertaken before the next picking season are:-

- (1) Erection of more new barracks at Hilltop Farm, Martley.
- (2) Erection of new barracks and new sanitary accommodation at Whitehouse, Suckley.

Other matters requiring attention have already been put in hand by the growers concerned.

In conclusion we should like to state that this has been the best hop-picking season, from our point-of-view, that we have known and we trust that this condition will continue. Although it would appear that machine picking will become more general in the near future, the extensive acreage of fruit being planted will probably necessitate the employment of "foreign" pickers and the supervision of their living accommodation will have to continue and, owing to the length of the fruit season, will probably cause the same amount of work.

Margaret C. Fell

Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

October, 1948.

